

Message Text

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ACTION OC-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 USIA-06 /034 W

----- 120762

P R 040847Z NOV 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2498

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

(/AMEMBASSY PARIS 408

USOFFICE RFC PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAGHDAD 1120

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, IZ

SUBJECT: POUCH REFILE POINT FOR USINT BAGHDAD

1. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, BEIRUT, SINCE OPENING OF USINT IN OCTOBER 1972, HAS SERVED AS OUR POUCH REFILE POINT. THIS HAS MEANT THAT HARD COPIES OF UNCLASSIFIED CABLES HAVE GONE TO BEIRUT VIA A TWICE-WEEKLY POUCH FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION. OFFICIAL MAIL HAS ALSO GONE TO BEIRUT FOR RE-POUCHING VIA THEIR POUCH FACILITIES. EXCEPTION HAS BEEN OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL MAIL DESTINED FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE, WHICH NOW BEING SENT WEEKLY DIRECT TO WASHINGTON FROM BAGHDAD.

2. CURRENT SITUATION IN LEBANON HAS MADE THIS ARRANGEMENT UNWORKABLE. BEIRUT INFORMED US OCTOBER 30 THAT THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE PICK UP OUR POUCHES FROM AIRPORT DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 27. CIVIL STRIFE IN BEIRUT HAS UPSET THE SCHEDULE OF OUR INCOMING POUCHES AS WELL. USINT'S POOR COMMUNICATIONS MAKES IT MANDATORY WE RECEIVE ITEMS LIKE USIS WIRELESS FILE IN A TIMELY MANNER, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN THE CASE OF LATE.

3. UNTIL EITHER USINT GETS FULL COMMUNICATIONS OR SITUATION LEBANON RETURNS TO NORMAL, IT WILL BE NECESSARY REDESIGNATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A POUCH REFILE POINT FOR BAGHDAD'S UNCLASSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

(CLASSIFIED MATERIAL IS PICKED UP BY COURIER - WE TRUST KUWAIT CAN CONTINUE TO SEND OUR CLASSIFIED CABLES). WE SUGGEST AMEMBASSY PARIS BE SO DESIGNATED. AIR FRANCE FLIES BAGHDAD TO PARIS THREE TIMES WEEKLY AND PARIS TO BAGHDAD THREE TIMES. PARIS HAS, OF COURSE, LARGE C&R SECTION WHICH COULD HOPEFULLY HANDLE RELATIVELY SMALL ADDITION OF USINT'S TRAFFIC. FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS DESTINED FOR RFC PARIS WOULD ALSO ARRIVE ON TIMELY BASIS, WHICH WAS OFTEN NOT THE CASE WITH BAGHDAD-BEIRUT-PARIS ARRANGEMENT. ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE WOULD BE THAT USINT'S POUCHES WOULD GO OUT VIA AIR FRANCE, AS OPPOSED TO IRAQI AIRWAYS OR KUWAIT AIR TO KUWAIT, AS IS CURRENTLY THE CASE.

4. IF A SURFACE POUCH WERE EVER SENT TO USINT, THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD ALSO REQUIRE THAT AIRLIFT FOR SURFACE POUCHES MENTIONED STATE 252521 WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED VIA THE DIRECT WASHINGTON-BAGHDAD LUFTHANSA POUCH, CURRENTLY SENT ONCE/TWICE WEEKLY, DEPENDING ON WEIGHT.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE USINT SOONEST ITS THOUGHTS ON ABOVE ARRANGEMENT.

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